Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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SUBJECT: RENEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL SHRIMP FISHING ARRANGEMENT

REF: BRASILIA 504

1. MINISTER SERGIO BATH TODAY, JANUARY20, RESPONDED TO ECON COUNSELORS REPRESENTATION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: A. GOB DOES NOT AGREE WITH STATEMENT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBL TO DISCUSS AN AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES PROPOSED WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE JURIDICAL POSTION OF EACH COUNTRY. B. GOB RECALLS THAT IN 1972 THE TWO GOVERNMENTS STARTED FROMTHE SAME POINT AND FOUND A WAY AROUND THE DIFFICULTY.

C. THE GOB DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE USG WOULD NECESSARILY HAVE TO ACCEPT BRAZIL'S JURIDICAL CLAIM AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ACCEPTING THE "PHASE-OUT" CONCEPT. D. GOB WISHES TO STRESS THAT THE PHASE-OUT CONCEPT IS

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TIED TO AN EFFORT TO ACCEPT AND ATTRACT US INVESTMENT

IN THE FIELD OF FISHING. GOB BELIEVES THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT AS FAR AS THE OBJECTIVE INTERESTS OF THE US FISHING INDUSTRY ARE CONCERNED.

E. IF USG APPROACHES THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASIS THAT IT CANNOT ACCEPT THE PHASE-OUT CONCEPT, US IN EFFECT IS SAYING THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT POSSIBLE. PHASE-OUT IS THE BASIS OF THE GOB POSITION NOT ONLY IN REGARD TO THE US-BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT BUT IN REGARD TO OTHER AGREEMENTS AS WILL.

F. GOB WISHES TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE FOREGOING IS THE CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF THEUS POSITION.

G. IF THIS IS THE CASE - IF THE USG IS IN FACT APPROACHING THE GOB WITH A POSITION THAT IT CANNOT ACCEPT THE PHASING-OUT CONCEPT - THERE WILL BE NO NEED AND POSSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

- 2. SERBIO BATH SAID THAT GOB IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH BARBADOS AND CLAIMED THAT DESPITE GREAT DIFFICULTIES BARBADOS THIS AFTERNOON HAD ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF PHASE-OUT ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT ACCEPT BRAZIL'S LEGAL POSITION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT IF USG WERE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON BASIS OF PHASE-OUT CONCEPT, A VARIETY OF RATIONALS, OTHER THAN ACCEPTANCE OF BRAZIL'S JURIDICAL CLAIM, WOULD UNDOUBETEDLY BE AVAILABLE TO JUSTIFY ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONCEPT.
- 3. ECON COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT USG SAW NO POLITICAL BASIS AND JUSTIFICATION FOR ACCEPTING PHASE-OUT OF US FISHING INTERESTS IN THE ABSENCE OF ACCEPTAANCE OF BRAZIL'S JURIDICAL CLAIM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BRAZIL WASNOT PROPOSING ECONOMIC LIQUIDATION OF THE FISHING OPERATIONS NOW CARRIED ON UNDER THE US FLAG BUT THAT THE TRANSFER TO BRAZILIAN JURISDICTION WAS NOT JUSTIFIABLE IN LIGHT OF THEUS JURIDICAL POSITION.
- 4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SIMILAR PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE BY BRAZILIAN EMBASSY TO THE DEPARTMENT.
- 5. CONCERNING A MEETING OF SCIENTISTS, BATH SAIDTHE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FONOFF WAS NOW CONSULTING SUDEPE AND IN CASE SUDEPE IS INTERESTED IN SUCH A MEETING AND NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD IN FACT TAKE PLACE, THE FONOFF WOULD NOT OBJECT. HE PROPOSED JANUARY 30-31 FOR SUCH A MEETING OF SCIENTISTS. CRIMMINS

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